

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0385
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0460
CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CG

SUBJECT: AFRICAN AIRLIFT

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REF: USCINCEUR MSG 061156Z JUNE 78

1. WE UNDERSTAND FROM REF MSGE, WHICH WAS SENT INFO
USDAO PARIS, THAT USCINCEUR REQUIRES GUIDANCE CONCERNING
AIRLIFT PRIORITIES. DOD WILL RESPOND TO USCINCEUR.

2. PROBLEM, SUMMARIZED, APPEARS TO BE THAT USCINCEUR IS

UNABLE TO LIFT BOTH FRENCH EQUIPMENT AT COLMAR AND AVORD AND RPT AND FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN TROOPS AT DAKAR, LOME, ABIDJAN AND LIBREVILLE WITHIN CURRENT CONSTRAINTS OF THIRTY SORTIES. GOF, WHICH HAS COORDINATING ROLE FOR LIFT OF ALL FORCES AND EQUIPMENT FOR SHABA, HAVE ASSIGNED PRIORITY REQUIREMENT TO THEIR VEHICULAR CARGO AT COLMAR, WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT U.S. LIFT OF AFRICANS.

3. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IT WAS AGREED IN PARIS MEETING JUNE 5 THAT U.S. LIFT, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO USE OF ITS ALMOST UNIQUE CAPABILITIES IN LIFTING HEAVY CARGO AND THAT FRENCH WOULD HANDLE ALL OR MOST OF LIFT OF AFRICAN PERSONNEL IN FRENCH AIRCRAFT (OR

PERHAPS BELGIAN PLANES SINCE THEY HAVE INDICATED SOME WILLINGNESS).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY PARIS IS REQUESTED TO CONFIRM ASAP OUR UNDERSTANDING, PARA 3 ABOVE, WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES. IF NECESSARY IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH FRENCH, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING CONCERNS WE WOULD HAVE WERE NEITHER WE NOR THE FRENCH OR BELGIANS TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT FOR AFRICAN TROOPS:

A) AT USG BEHEST, AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED HAVE REQUESTED AIRLIFT TO ENABLE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN SHABA
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AND HAVE NO REASON TO EXPECT OTHER THAN A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM EITHER USG OR GOF.

B) POLITICAL ESSENCE OF OPERATION IS MULTILATERAL PARTICIPATION; MOREOVER A PRINCIPAL CONDITION OF MOROCCAN PARTICIPATION WAS THAT THEY BE IN COMPANY WITH OTHER AFRICAN TROOPS. VANCE

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